FACT SHEET: THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S CONSERVATION RECORD

The Obama Administration has launched landmark policies and made unprecedented investments to protect and restore the lands and waters that shape America's culture and fuel our economy. Through partnerships with local communities and private landowners, and a focus on healthy, clean and accessible outdoor spaces, Federal agencies are delivering on-the-ground conservation results for Americans.

> America's Great Outdoors: A Conservation Agenda by the People, for the People

President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors Initiative in 2009 to design a 21st century conservation and recreation agenda in partnership with American communities. Successes include:

- Protecting Land President Obama marked the most extensive expansion of land and water
 conservation in more than a generation when he signed legislation in 2009 designating more than 2
 million acres of Federal land as wilderness, protecting more than 1,000 miles of rivers, authorizing a 26
 million-acre National Landscape Conservation System, and adding thousands of miles of trails to the
 National Trails System.
- Conserving Places in All 50 States The U.S. Department of the Interior is partnering with other Federal
 agencies, States and communities to complete 101 conservation projects across all 50 States and the
 District of Columbia. The projects were identified by the states as some of the best investments to
 support a healthy, active population, conserve wildlife and working lands, and create travel, tourism
 and outdoor-recreation jobs across the country.
- Restoring National Forests The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is finalizing a new and
 modernized planning rule for America's 193 million acres of National Forests that emphasizes restoring
 forests, protecting water and wildlife, addressing climate change, fire, and pests, and promoting vibrant,
 economically thriving communities.
- **Designating National Parks and Monuments** With strong community support, President Obama designated Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia, as a National Monument, protecting a site of historic significance for slavery, the Civil War, and the U.S. military. The Administration also established the River Raisin Battlefield in Michigan, the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in New Jersey, the William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace in Arkansas, Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial in California, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the National Mall.
- Creating and Revitalizing a New Generation of Great Urban Parks—The Administration is improving and increasing access to open spaces, trails, and historic and cultural sites in New York, Denver, St. Louis, Chicago, and other urban areas across America.
- Protecting Grand Canyon National Park- Interior withdrew 1 million acres of federal lands abutting Grand
 Canyon National Park from new mining claims for 20 years to protect one of America's symbolic icons, the
 region's water resources, tribal lands, and cultural resources.

> Encouraging Restoration on Private Lands: A New Model for Community-Driven Conservation

The Administration has significantly expanded partnerships with private landowners to conserve and restore wildlife habitat. Since 2009, the Administration has enrolled an annual average of 75 million acres of private land in voluntary conservation programs, and USDA has entered into more than 500,000 agreements with farmers and ranchers to implement conservation practices. Successes include:

- **Expanding Hunting and Fishing Access** The Administration has invested \$23 million in 25 State public access programs that will open an estimated 2.4 million acres for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreational opportunities on privately-owned land.
- **Supporting Private Landowners** The Administration has worked with farmers, ranchers and private landowners to protect or restore more than 600,000 acres of critical wetlands, and 8 million acres of private working lands on nearly 120,000 farms. The Administration also provided cost-share assistance to help producers install conservation practices on more than 30 million acres.

- Collaborating on Land Conservation: Working across agencies and communities, the Administration
 has created the Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area in Kansas, the Cherry Valley National Wildlife
 Refuge in Pennsylvania, the Dakota Grassland Conservation Area, and the Tulare Basin Wildlife
 Management Area in California. The Administration has also advanced landscape-scale conservation in
 the Crown of the Continent and Longleaf Pine ecosystems and approved creating the Middle Rio Grande
 National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico, the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and
 Conservation Area in Florida, and the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge in Illinois and Wisconsin.
- **Protecting the Sage Grouse** In 2010, USDA launched a Sage Grouse Initiative to provide certainty for farmers and ranchers while conserving the habitat of the greater sage grouse. USDA has enrolled critical lands equivalent to the size of Delaware in voluntary conservation programs, an initiative that dovetails with sage grouse conservation measures Interior is undertaking with Western states.

Renewing America's Rivers and Waters, the Lifeblood of Communities and Economies

The Administration has made long-overdue progress restoring key rivers, ecosystems and coastal regions, including.

- Opening Access to Coastal Areas Through investments and partnerships with States and others,
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has created or enhanced more than 540
 public recreational coastal access sites, protected more than 54,000 acres of coastal area, and restored
 more than 5,200 acres of coastal habitat.
- Restoring the Everglades The Administration has reinvigorated Federal leadership in Everglades restoration, investing more than \$1.4 billion to jump start construction projects and protect essential habitat on working lands. In partnership with the State of Florida, progress includes the Army Corps' restoration of over 3,000 acres of the floodplain ecosystem along the Kissimmee River, breaking ground on the first mile of bridging for the Tamiami Trail and starting implementation of key components of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.
- **Restoring Western Rivers** Interior has led efforts across the West to restore river habitat by removing dams. The river restoration project in progress on the Elwha River in Olympic National Park, for example, will open more than 70 miles of river habitat to five threatened and endangered fish species.
- Restoring the Great Lakes The Administration created and invested more than \$1 billion in a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to restore the Great Lakes ecosystem that serves 30 million Americans. Led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the initiative has removed more than 1 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment and protected or restored more than 20,000 acres of essential habitat.
- Restoring the Gulf Coast President Obama established the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task
 Force to coordinate the long-term conservation and restoration of the Gulf Coast and to address the
 decades-long decline of the Gulf's natural systems. The Task Force, chaired by EPA, delivered its final
 strategy to the President in December 2011, and USDA and NOAA have committed more than \$150
 million to improve water quality, increase water conservation, and enhance wildlife habitat in the Gulf.
- **Restoring the Chesapeake Bay** To meet the President's goal of restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary, agencies have established two-year milestones including implementation of a "pollution diet" developed by EPA, and an interagency effort to develop innovative market-based and cost-effective water quality improvements.
- **Restoring California's Bay Delta and San Joaquin River** Federal agencies and the State of California are working to ensure a coordinated approach to water issues in California to achieve a sustainable water supply for California and a healthy ecosystem.
- **Revitalizing Urban Waters** —Led by EPA, a new Urban Waters Federal Partnership is revitalizing urban waters and the communities that surround them, transforming overlooked assets into treasured centerpieces and drivers of urban renewal. Originally targeting seven cities, this partnership will leverage federal funds to reconnect urban communities with their waterways.